

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 08TRIPOLI926, SWISS FOREIGN MINISTER MAY VISIT TRIPOLI IN "LAST GASP" \

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08TRIPOLI926**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08TRIPOLI926	2008-12-02 17:06	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Tripoli

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/wikileaks-files/libya-wikileaks/>

```
VZCZCXRO4123
OO RUEHAG RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHTRO #0926 3371706
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 021706Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4201
INFO RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 4723
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE 0022
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 1328
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY 0688
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY 0832
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 0778
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES
```

```
2008-12-02 17:06:00 08TRIPOLI926 Embassy Tripoli CONFIDENTIAL 08TRIPOLI851 VZCZCXRO4123\
OO RUEHAG RUEHROV RUEHSR\
DE RUEHTRO #0926 3371706\
ZNY CCCCC ZZH\
O 021706Z DEC 08\
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI\
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4201\
INFO RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 4723\
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE 0022\
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 1328\
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY 0688\
```

RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY 0832\
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 0778\
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC\
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 000926 \

\
SIPDIS \

\
DEPT FOR NEA/MAG \

\
E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/2/2018 \

TAGS: PREL PHUM ECON FAIR SZ LY

SUBJECT: SWISS FOREIGN MINISTER MAY VISIT TRIPOLI IN "LAST GASP" \
EFFORT TO MEND FRAYED BILATERAL TIES \

\
REF: TRIPOLI 851 \

\
CLASSIFIED BY: Chris Stevens, CDA, Embassy Tripoli, Department \
of State. \

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d) \

¶1. (C) Swiss Consul Francois Schmidt told P/E Chief on December \
2 that Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey intends to \
travel to Tripoli on December 5 for talks with as-yet \
undetermined Government of Libya interlocutors in what he \
described as "a last gasp" effort to resolve the lingering \
Libyan-Swiss contretemps occasioned by the arrest in Geneva of \
Hannibal al-Qadhafi, son of Muammar al-Qadhafi, in July. (Note: \
Schmidt asked that we keep news of the possible visit close-hold \
as it had not yet been finalized. End note.) The Swiss Embassy \
submitted a diplomatic note to the Libyan MFA on December 1 \
requesting meetings for Calmy-Rey with Muammar al-Qadhafi and a \
number of lesser officials, including Foreign \
Minister-equivalent Abdulrahman Shalgham and National Security \
Advisor Muatassim al-Qadhafi. Schmidt said Swiss Ambassador to \
Tripoli Daniel von Muralt had advised against the trip, \
cautioning Calmy-Rey that she could be "badly humiliated" if she \
decided to come. Admitting that there was "no agreed strategy, \
message or approach" behind the proposed visit, Schmidt said the \
Swiss Federal Government had nonetheless directed her to make \
the trip in the hope that it could rejuvenate Libyan-Swiss talks \
that he characterized as "hopelessly stalled". \

\
¶2. (C) Schmidt said the situation had worsened since Libyan and \
Swiss members of a joint commission of inquiry exchanged copies \
of their respective drafts of a final report on November 14. \
The idea was that they would agree on language for a report that \
would be jointly issued to the public, which would detail the \
events attendant to Hannibal's arrest and mutually-agreed \
remedies. Ambassador von Muralt stressed in an earlier meeting \
with us (reftel) that the joint commission's report would likely \
be the next stumbling block in the effort to mend frayed ties. \
Schmidt confirmed that such had come to pass, saying the two \
reports were "miles apart" in terms of their interpretations of \
events and conclusions. Schmidt highlighted the fact that \
Libyan members had come away with completely different \
understandings of the testimony of key witnesses, and suggested \
that they had shaded their interpretations to bolster the key \
Libyan demand that the arresting police officers be punished. \

\
¶3. (C) Lamenting that the GOL had repeatedly shifted the \
goalposts in terms of its demands for redress, Schmidt said GOL \
officials' latest demands were that the officers be "banished" \
from Geneva to other cantonments and that the Swiss prosecutor \
be investigated for legal malpractice. They had also recently \
stipulated that a public apology to be issued by the Swiss \
government as part of a grand bargain admit that Swiss officials \
had conspired to "deliberately entrap" Hannibal al-Qadhafi. He \
attributed most of the creeping demands to the personal \
involvement of Aisha al-Qadhafi and Hannibal al-Qadhafi in the \
work of the Libyan committee tasked with resolving the issue. \
In a positive step, all but two of Switzerland's citizens \
remaining in Libya had obtained exit visas; the two remaining \
are under indictment for alleged crimes in cases brought right \
after Hannibal's arrest. Swiss Air's station manager, who had \
been prohibited for over a month from leaving, obtained a six \
month, multiple-entry visa and a one-year residency permit after \
Swiss officials linked her case to that of the gravely ill \
daughter of a senior regime official, whom the family wanted to \
take to Switzerland for specialized treatment. In addition, \

Swiss Air, which had threatened to cease operating its one \ remaining Zurich-Tripoli route (landing permits for two of its \ three weekly flights were cancelled by the GOL after Hannibal's \ arrest), has decided to continue flying until year's end and \ will assess then whether to shutter its operations. \

14. (C) Comment: Other EU missions have quietly questioned the \ Swiss approach to the ongoing kerfuffle, particularly Bern's \ decision to not/not solicit support from Brussels for a joint EU \ response to the GOL's pressure tactics. The fact that the \ reports of the Libyan and Swiss members of the joint commission \ of inquiry are so divergent with respect to what happened and \ who is at fault does not augur well. While high-level shuttle \ diplomacy with the GOL has worked in some cases in the past \ (witness French efforts with respect to the Bulgarian nurses), \ the consensus among the diplomatic corps here is that Tripoli \ believes it has the upper hand and will not concede much to the \ Swiss. The dispute highlights the extent to which the GOL \ remains a family enterprise, willing to go to extreme lengths \ over what amounts to a matter of face involving the abhorrent \ behavior of Hannibal al-Qadhafi. End comment. \

\ STEVENS \